

## Message Text

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17  
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P R 150900Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5759  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
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USUN NEW YORK 0628

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 1013/1

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, BY, PINR  
SUBJECT: NEW BURUNDI CABINET

1. SUMMARY. BURUNDI'S NEW CABINET UNDER PRIME MINISTER (LIEUT COLONEL) EDOUARD NZAMBIMANA MARKS A SHARP BREAK WITH THE RECENT PAST. APART FROM NZAMBIMANA HIMSELF, THERE ARE ONLY TWO HOLDOVERS FROM THE LAST GOVERNMENT, PLANNING BOSS DONATIEN BIHUTE, WHO KEEPS HIS JOB, AND DAMIEN BARAKAMFITIYE, WHO MOVES FROM SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER. HALF OF THE CABINET ARE UNKNOWNS, WHO DO NOT AT ALL, OR WHO JUST SCARCELY, APPEAR IN OUR BIOGRAPHIC FILES. THEY SEEM TO BE YOUNG MEN ABOUT 29 OR 30, IN ABOUT THE SAME UNIVERSITY

CLASSES AS NZAMBIMANA AND PRESIDENT BAGAZA, WHO HAVE FEW OR NO TIES TO THE ELITE GROUP IN POWER IN THE LAST FIVE TO TEN YEARS. VICE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, ALBERT MUGANGA, ABOUT 30, BECOMES THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TAKES THE TILE OF MINISTER OF PLANNING, WITH BIHUTE AS SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS MECHANISM IS ESSENTIAL FOR GIVING BIHUTE (USING NZAMBIMANA'S NAME) AUTHORITY OVER OTHER  
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MINISTERS IN IMPLEMENTING OVERALL PLANNING DECISIONS.

3. THERE IS AN EVIDENT DESIRE TO GIVE AGRICULTURE MUCH MORE EMPHASIS. THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AND (NEW

ADDITION) RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS MAJOR PHILBERT KAYIBIGI, UNTIL NOW THE AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA, WHO, AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF BAGAZA, IS EMERGING AS ONE OF THE HEAVYWEIGHTS OF THE NEW REGIME. KAYIBIGI HAS NO RECORD OF KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT AGRICULTURE, BUT HE WILL PRESUMABLY CARRY MAJOR BUREAUCRATIC CLOUT. HE IS GIVEN TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE, JEAN KABURA, FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LAZARE RUNESA, FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. BOTH ARE UNKNOWN, BUT PRESUMABLY HAVE UNIVERSITY DEGREES. THE STRESS ON FOOD PRODUCTION AS A PRIORITY GOAL CAME OUT VERY CLEARLY THIS PAST WEEK DURING NZAMBIMANA'S TALKS WITH VISITING EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON, AND THERE MAY BE SOME REORIENTATION OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT PLANNING (AWAY FROM TOPHEAVY EMPHASIS ON EXPORT CROSP) AS A RESULT.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER MUGANGA HAS IN THE PAST BEEN CONSIDERED A PROTEGE OF UNIVERSITY RECTOR, FATHER BARAKANA, A RATHER PRO-WESTERN FIGURE IN BURUNDIAN TERMS. WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND MUGANGA (AS UNIVERSITY VICE RECTOR) TO BE COURTEOUS, QUIETLY EFFICIENT, AND FRIENDLY. HE OBTAINED A UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS IN EUROPE ABOUT 1971, BUT HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE AT ALL IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. THE NEW MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE IS DOMINIQUE SHIRAMANGA, WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE COMMON MARKET FOR ONLY A FEW MONTHS. BEFORE THAT, HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ECONOMY, WHERE HE ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS AN HONEST, WELL-INTENTIONED, AND CAPABLE ECONOMIST. HIS DEGREE IS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME. HIS FELLOW ROME ECONOMICS GRADUATE, GASPARD KARENZO, AT PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA, WILL RETURN TO TAKE OVER A NEW MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY, MINES, AND INDUSTRY, THAT HAS BEEN CARVED OUT OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE. KARENZO HAD ONLY A MEDIOCRE REPUTATION WHEN, A FEW YEARS AGO, HE WAS VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (A JOB SINCE ABOLISHED), BUT THAT MAY HAVE MOSTLY REFLECTED THE LIMBO IN WHICH THEN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE KEPT HIM.

6. THE NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE IS JEAN-BAPTISTE MANWANGARI, ON WHOME OUR ONLY RECORD STATES THAT TWO YEARS AGO, HE WAS RUNNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF BURUNDI'S ONLY YOUTH ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, WE LEARN THAT HE HAS BEEN A LOCAL MAGISTRATE IN BUJUMBURA FOR A YEAR, AND WE ASSUME THAT HE HAS LEGAL TRAINING.

7. NO ONE HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, FORMERLY PRESIDED OVER BY LIEUT COLONEL JOSEPH RWURI, WHO HAS JUST BEEN UNCEREMONIOUSLY CASHIERED FROM THE ARMY. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT IT WILL BE AT LEAST ANOTHER WEEK BEFORE IT IS DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH THIS MINISTRY, THE MAIN JOB OF WHICH HAS BEEN TO SUPERVISE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. SINCE GOVERNORS ARE NOW ALL MILITARY, THEIR ADMINISTRATION IS PROVISIONALLY BEING HANDLED THROUGH THE GENERAL

STAFF ITSELF. HOWEVER, DECISION IS ALSO BOUND UP WITH REORGANIZATION OF UPRONA PARTY AND GOVERNORS' ROLE THEREIN.

8. LADISLAS NDAYE, THE NEW EDUCATION MINISTER, HAS LONG SERVED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THAT MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO RUMORS, A NEW DECREE WILL BE FORTHCOMING WHICH RESTORES THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMY FROM THAT MINISTRY, AS FATHER BARAKANA HAS LONG DEMANDED. THE MINISTRY HAS ALSO LOST ITS CONTROL OVER BURUNDI'S CULTURAL AFFAIRS WHICH ARE TRANSFERRED TO A NEW MINISTRY OF YOUTH SPORTS, AND CULTURE UNDER EMILE MWOROKA, WHO FOR ABOUT HALF A YEAR, HAS BEEN THE HEAD OF THE JRR, BURUNDI'S OFFICIAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION UNDER THE UPRONA PARTY.

9. THE NEW MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR, JOSEPH NZEYIMANA, HAS BEEN THE CHIEF OF THE UPRONA PARTY ORGANIZATION IN BUJUMBURA'S ELITE RESIDENTIAL AREA AND HAS APPARENTLY CLASHED FREQUENTLY WITH THE FORMER PARTY LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY FORMER NUMBER TWO MAN BIZINDAVYI, OVER UPRONA'S DO-NOTHINGISM AND CORRUPTION. THE FORMER HOLDER OF THIS PORTFOLIO, DAMIEN BARAKAMFITIYE, NOW THE CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER, IS A HUTU, WHOSE TUTSI WIFE ELIZABETH IS THE HEAD OF BURUNDI'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE. BARAKAMFITIYE MAY BE THE ONLY HUTU STILL IN THE CABINET, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR BOTH MINISTERS NOTED IN PARA 12 BELOW MAY BE HUTU. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE NEW REGIME AGONIZED A BIT OVER WHETHER TO KEEP MORE OF THE OLD HUTU MINISTERS IN THE NEW CABINET FOR THE SAKE OF ETHNIC CONCILIATION, BUT IT FINALLY DECIDED THAT THE CLEAN SWEEP PRINCIPLE TOOK PRIORITY.

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10. THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER, MAJOR JEAN BANDUSHA, HAS

BEEN (AND PRESUMABLY WILL REMAIN) THE HEAD OF ARMY'S MEDICAL SERVICE. HE IS A YOUNG OFFICER, ON THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHO WAS NOT CUT IN ON THE COUP BEFORE IT OCCURRED. HIS MEDICAL TRAINING WAS GAINED MOSTLY IN ZAIRE, AND HE IS CURRENTLY HEADING A GOOD WILL MISSION TO KINSHASA AND BRAZZAVILLE.

11. THE NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION IS CAPTAIN THARCISSE RUHWIKIRA, WHO ALSO HOLDS THE JOB OF SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. HIS APPOINTMENT PRESUMABLY PRESAGES CLOSE MILITARY CONTROL OVER THE CONTENT OF BURUNDI'S RADIO BROADCASTS AND PRESS SERVICE.

12. THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN SPRUNG UP AND RESHUFFLED INTO THREE MINISTRIES. THE NEW MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING IS ISIDORE NYABOYA, A YOUNG CIVIL ENGINEER WITH A MASTERS' DEGREE FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING FOR FIVE YEARS ON THE UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STAFF IN NEW YORK. HE IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF BAGAZA, AND HIS FRIENDLINESS TO THE U.S. SHOULD STAND US IN GOOD STEAD. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND  
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AVIATION, LADISLAS BARUTWANAYO, AND THE NEW MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS REMY NKENGURUTSE ARE COMPLETE UNKNOWNNS.

13. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SIMBANANIYE AND HIS CLIQUE AS WELL AS HIS FORMER ARCH RIVALS ARE ALL OUT OF JOBS. IT THUS MAY BE THAT BURUNDI HAS AT LEAST BROKEN OUT OF THE MICOMBERO STRAITJACKET OF INTERNECINE TUTSI FEUDS WHICH SO DEBAUCHED GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE COUP. IT IS TOO EARLY TO CROW TOO LOUDLY, BECAUSE THE NEW TEAM MAY ITSELF IN DUE COURSE DEVELOP SPLITS OF ITS OWN, AND SOME OLD POLITICIANS MAY YET TURN OUT TO HAVE IMPORTANT INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, SO FAR, SO GOOD.  
MARK

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